

REMARKS

As stated above, in lieu of payment of the issue fee, this Amendment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114 is being filed subsequent to a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee and in support of the Request for Continued Examination ("RCE") (37 C.F.R. §1.114) which is filed concurrently herewith. Accordingly, Applicants note that pursuant to 37 CFR §1.313(a) no petition to withdraw the application from issue is required. Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested prior to further examination on the merits.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants concurrently file an Information Disclosure Statement to make several references of record in this case. Applicants request that the Examiner confirm his consideration of the cited references by initialing and returning the PTO-1449 provided.

Claim Status.

As indicated in the Notice of Allowability, claims 1-11 had been allowed.

By this Amendment, new claims 12-15 have been added for consideration on the merits. No new matter has been added.

The claims as presented herein, including new claims 12-15 are believed allowable for at least similar reasons as provided in the reasons for allowance stated in the Detailed Action accompanying the Notice of Allowance previously issued in this case.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the foregoing and respectfully submit that the claims as presented herein are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below, should that in anyway facilitate prosecution.

PATENT
S/N: 10/656,727

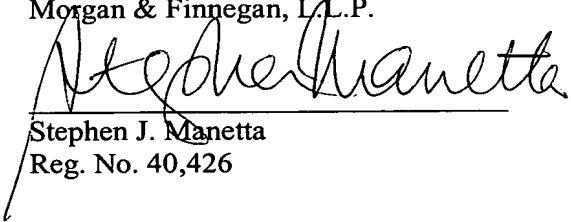
Docket No. 1232-5136

Should any additional fees be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5136.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan & Finnegan, L.L.P.

Dated: September 7, 2004

By:


Stephen J. Manetta
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